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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



VOLUME 63

NUMBER 7

MEAT (Page 144)

CONTENTS

	Page
COTTON AND OTHER FIBER	
Cotton-Price Quotations on Foreign Markets	156
Egypt's Cotton Price Supports Changed	157
Upward Trend in Belgian Cotton Imports	158
FATS AND OILS	
Cuban Lard and Tallow Situation, Second Quarter 1951	150
Malayan Exports of Copra and Coconut Oil Drop in 1951	152
Malayan Palm Oil Exports Increase, First Quarter 1951	153
Chile Places Fats and Oils Under Price Control	153
India's Flaxseed Output Down; Rape and Mustard Seed Up in 1950-51	154
Italy Extends Tariff Modifying Fats and Oils	154
FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTS	
Cuba Establishes Ceiling Prices on Potatoes	148
Canadian Potato Acreage Down	149
LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS	
International Trade in Meat in 1950	144
New Beef Prices Established as Basis for Calculating Argentine Cattle Values	155
Livestock Numbers Increase in Panama	155
SUGAR	
Canadian Sugar Prospects Continue Good	148
Western Germany Sugar Beet Acreage Sets New Record	148
TOBACCO	
Indonesia Tobacco Imports Increase; Exports Decline	149
Cuban Tobacco Production Revised Upward; Exports Higher	150

FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

AUGUST 13, 1951

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

L A T E N E W S

The area planted to cotton in Greece during the 1951-52 season is estimated at 219,000 acres in a preliminary report by the Hellenic Cotton Board. This is a 15 percent increase above the 191,000 acres harvested in 1950-51, from which a crop of 117,000 bales (500 pounds gross weight) was picked. Stocks of cotton in Greece on July 1, 1951, were estimated at 63,000 bales, of which 46,000 bales were in the hands of farmers.

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A trade agreement between France and Pakistan signed on June 23, 1951, is intended to facilitate the shipment of about 200,000 bales (500 pounds gross weight) of cotton, among other items, from Pakistan to France during the 12-month period ending November 29, 1951. The present agreement renews that signed on November 29, 1949 and is renewable by tacit agreement between the two countries unless denounced 2 months before expiration. During the 6-month period from the beginning of December 1950 through the end of May 1951, only about 39,000 bales were exported from Pakistan to France.

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free in the United States to those needing the information it contains in farming, business and professional operations. Issued by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN MEAT IN 1950 1/

International trade in meat during 1950 excluding Asia and other minor meat-producing countries, decreased to slightly under 4 billion pounds, according to information available to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. This estimate, although close to the 1949 level, is still substantially below the 1934-38 prewar average of 4.55 billion pounds. Many countries in Europe which imported large quantities of meat in post-war years have now increased domestic production to gain self-sufficiency. In some cases, these countries have started modest export programs.

Reduced exportable surpluses in important traditional exporting countries tended to reduce international trade in 1950. Present indications are that international meat trade will not increase substantially during 1951 and is likely to continue close to the levels of 1949 and 1950. Over 5 percent of the meat produced in the world 2/ entered international trade in 1950. Increases in meat output in traditional importing countries, however, more than offset the drop in supplies from export sources.

Movement of meat between countries in Europe during 1950 reflected an increased production from intensive livestock breeding programs following the war. The relaxing of trade restrictions between western European countries also stimulated trade. The volume of trade in Europe last year was close to the prewar level. Exports from Oceania (Australia and New Zealand) and Africa declined. Drought and rising domestic consumption limited exportable supplies in many of the countries in the Western Hemisphere. South American exports continued to decline for the fourth year in succession and were substantially below prewar levels.

Channels of international meat trade were dominated in 1950 by South America, Oceania and such European countries as Denmark, Poland, the Netherlands, Ireland and France. Canada was the most important exporting country in North America.

From the standpoint of individual countries, around 25 percent of the total world movement was supplied by Argentina. Exports from this country declined in 1950 because of a reduced meat output and a marked rise in domestic consumption. With suspension of trade with the United Kingdom in mid-1950, Argentina developed other markets and succeeded in moving sizable quantities of canned meat to markets in the United States. Outlets were found in other South American and European countries. Because of rising domestic consumption and commitments to the United Kingdom under the new trade agreement, some curtailment of Argentine meat products available for the United States and other markets is likely for 1951. New Zealand contributed around 19 percent to world trade in 1950, Denmark 15 percent, Australia 12 percent, Uruguay 7 percent and Canada 5 percent.

1/ A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

2/ World meat production for 1950 was summarized in Foreign Crops and Markets, May 14, 1951.

MEAT 1/: International trade, average 1934-38, annual 1947-1950

145

Continent and country	Average 1934-38	1947	1948	1949	2/	1950 2/
	Exports : pounds	Imports : pounds	Exports : pounds	Imports : pounds	Exports : pounds	Imports : pounds
<u>NORTH AMERICA</u>						
Canada 2/.....	1,000 : pounds	1,000 : pounds	1,000 : pounds	1,000 : pounds	1,000 : pounds	1,000 : pounds
Mexico.....	24,568:	417,907:	6,640:	411,453:	2,794:	202,080:
United States 2/4/.....	193,436: 23:	15,358: 1,130:	92,523: 65,000:	438: 350,000:	126,953: 97,400:	32,850: 242,000:
Cuba.....	114,600: 82:	334,800: 7,302:	67,600: 35,330:	1: 1:	97,400: 27,803:	337: 16:
Estimated total.....	308,100:	295,000:	768,100:	107,800:	571,600:	291,100:
<u>EUROPE</u>						
Austria.....	760: 54,501:	13,097: 6,790:	2,550:6/ 38,300:	1,184:6/ 29,200:	1: 24,697:	23,603:
Belgium.....	4,715:	3,918: 5/	225,486: 5/	22,560: 5/	201,297: 5/	120,171: 5/
Bulgaria 7/.....	5,275:	19:6/ 42,550:	5/ 73:	5/ 3,000: 5/	4,500:6/ 49:	1,100:8/ 49,000:8/
Czechoslovakia 7/.....	573,200:	314,565:	73:	55,900:8/ 330,416:	59,000:8/ 2,247:	8,100: 5/
Denmark 2/ 9/.....	6,435:	1,257:	17:	4,607:	14,021:	590,150: 90
Finland.....	4,698:	51,958:	4,866: 144,015:	7,576: 53,135:	12,062:	87: 2,144:
France.....	4,148:	156,081:	- :6/ 31,100:	- :6/ 161,000:	25,200:	16,575: 72,966:
Germany 7/.....	- :2,689:	- :6/ 18,750:	- :6/ 40,300:	- :6/ 35,400:	2,000: -	13,088: 4,950: 276,004
Greece.....	18,203:	- :3,000:	- :8/ 2,589:	3,800:6/ 250:8/	2,500: 5/	5/ :8/ 3,600: 18,350
Hungary.....	6,248:	8:	61:	1,199:	4:	28: 1: 5/
Iceland.....	70,881:	40:	34,005:	- :27,215:	4:	28: 1: 110: -
Ireland.....	11,597:	73,542:	498: 57,767:	5,163: 43,606:	- :51,423:	- :80,400: -
Italy.....	85,571:	21,974:	2,156: 21,012:	18,514: 74,265:	13,232: 41,061:	65,166: 84,490: 48,536
Netherlands.....	2,244:	4,378:	437: 2,029:	469: 3,129:	161: 9,595:	84,242: 28,797
Norway.....	113,490:	62:	5/ :6/ 92,650:	25,000:6/ 2,700:8/	45,000:6/ 12,700:8/	91,600: 5/
Poland 7/.....	936:	525:	259: 25,163:	4,184: 6,274:	2,395: 1,327:	716: 2,422
Portugal 10/.....	6,179:	- :6/	2/ :6/ 300:	- :6/ 2,200:8/	4,500: 5/	2,000: 5/
Rumania 7/.....	2,666:	4,733:	130: 39,068:	211: 68,694:	282: 16,381:	340: 19
Spain 11.....	31,097:	14,94:	221: 25,789:	6: 17,859:	531: 31,468:	1,304: 48,625
Sweden 3/.....	1,250:	8,515:	74: 35,834:	2,159: 36,245:	3,177: 14,923:	105: 14,117
Switzerland.....	28,008:	3,455,910:	2,040:3,513,666:	1,845:2,521,111:	1,644:2,612,661:	2,124:2,969,138
United Kingdom 12/.....	18,901:	- :8,500:6/ 15,800:	14,000:6/ 3,000:8/	1,000: 5/	5/ :8/ 12,300: 5/	5/
Estimated total.....	1,046,500:3,822,600:	379,800:4,334,000:	290,000:3,337,300:	565,800:3,303,800:1,017,100:	3,481,100	
<u>U.S.S.R. 7/.....</u>	8,295:	6,213:	2/ :6/ 24,700:	2/ :6/ 3,000:	2/ :6/ 9,000:	2/ :6/ :6/ :6/ :6/ :6/

<u>SOUTH AMERICA</u>	
Argentina.....	1,460,045:
Brazil.....	213,538:
Chile.....	20,977:
Paraguay.....	16,483:
Uruguay.....	323,623:
Estimated total.....	2,034,700:

<u>AFRICA</u>	
Madagascar.....	30,410:
Southern Rhodesia.....	18,601:
Union of South Africa.....	13,542:
Estimated total.....	62,500:

<u>OCEANIA</u>	
Australia.....	495,742:
New Zealand.....	594,138:
Estimated total.....	1,089,900:

Estimated world total.....	4,550,000:4,146,800:4,677,600:4,486,300:3,883,700:3,750,500:3,286,300:3,639,000:3,971,100:2,905,800
1/ All meats converted to a carcass weight equivalent - includes beef and veal, pork, mutton and lamb, goat and horse meat; excludes live animals, edible offal, lard, rabbit and poultry meat.	2/ Preliminary.
2/ Averages for years 1935-39.	4/ Excludes exports of horse meat, which averaged 124 million in 1947, 114 million in 1948, 33 million in 1949 and 15 million in 1950.
b/ Based on exports from supplying countries reporting exports by destination.	5/ Not available.
c/ Present territory for postwar years.	7/ Based on imports into receiving countries reporting imports by origin.
d/ Includes carcass weight equivalent of live cattle exported.	8/ Based on imports for years 1934-37.
e/ Averages for years 1931-35.	11/ Averages for years 1931-35.
f/ Includes edible offal.	

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, and other available information. In postwar years some international trade, particularly imports, may have been excluded, because of lack of information upon which to base estimates.

Imports into the United Kingdom, the largest importer of meat, amounted to nearly 3 billion pounds or 75 percent of total world trade. This is a slight increase over 1949, but still below the 3.5 billion pounds imported during the prewar period of 1934-1938. Although total imports for 1950 rose, the increase occurred in the first half of the year with shipments in the latter half actually being lower than in the same period of 1949 because of the termination of Argentine shipments after July of 1950 when no new agreement was negotiated. A substantial rise in domestic meat output in the United Kingdom coupled with an increase in liftings from Denmark, Australia, New Zealand, Uruguay, France and Poland contributed to offset the decline in exports from Argentina. Per capita consumption in the United Kingdom reportedly increased in 1950 when compared with 1948 and 1949. With the resumption of shipments from Argentina and Uruguay, the outlook for 1951 is for a continued rise in the British per capita consumption which, however, remains below prewar levels.

The world meat trade pattern changed significantly in 1950 when contrasted with 1949 and prewar. Europe is now in an improved position, but will probably not increase meat output during 1951. Some tapering of production in Europe is possible unless adequate feed supplies are secured. With the continuation of high employment in most countries, the demand for meat and meat products will continue strong. Consumption of meat is increasing in most countries, and is above prewar levels in the Western Hemisphere, but remains below prewar standards in Europe. Canada continues to be an outstanding supplier for the United States market. Canadian exports dropped sharply in 1949, but leveled off during 1950. Mexican exports were down in 1950 after reaching record levels in 1948 and 1949. The United States remained a net importer of meat in 1950, taking around 368 million pounds and exporting 87 million pounds. In New Zealand and Australia postwar exports have maintained a fairly consistent level. These countries continue to be important suppliers of meat.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

SUGAR

CANADIAN SUGAR PROSPECTS CONTINUE GOOD

Canadian sugar beet acreage in 1951 is officially estimated at the near-record level of 101,200 acres, compared with the record 101,650 acres harvested in 1950. Although the official estimate for 1951 includes 1,000 acres in Alberta, abandoned as a result of bad weather, crop conditions in other areas have been such that total beet production for the current season is unofficially estimated at 1 million tons, compared with 1,128,000 tons harvested in 1950. If the sugar yield from the beet outturn reaches the long-run average of 14 percent, Canada's 1951 beet sugar production would total 150,000 short tons, raw value, an increase from the 145,000 short tons produced in 1950.

WESTERN GERMANY SUGAR BEET ACREAGE SETS NEW RECORD

Sugar beet acreage in Western Germany is estimated to be approximately 558,000 acres, or 17 percent greater than last year's all-time high of 477,000 acres. The increase was largely at the expense of potatoes, down 99,000 acres compared with 1950. Given favorable weather, last year's bumper crop yields may well be repeated in 1951. At an average yield of 15 tons of sugar beets per acre (representing the long-run average), total production would be 8.5 million short tons, compared with 7.7 million short tons in 1950. Assuming average beet yields, sugar production from the 1951 crop will approximate 1.2 million short tons, raw value. Production in 1950 totaled 1.1 million short tons.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTS

CUBA ESTABLISHES CEILING PRICES ON POTATOES

The Cuban Government issued Resolution No. 217 on July 21, 1951 establishing ceiling prices on potatoes until August 31, 1951. Indications are that these price ceilings were established at such levels to prevent imports of potatoes under the seasonably reduced duties (45 cents per 100 pounds) until the unusually large stored supply of domestic potatoes are consumed. The new ceilings are equivalent to about \$1.72 per 100 pounds for White No. 1, \$1.50 per 100 pounds for White No. 2, and \$1.82 per 100 pounds for red potatoes. These prices are to the retailer. Consumer ceiling prices are set at 5, 4 and 5 cents per pound, respectively, for the 3 grades.

CANADIAN POTATO ACREAGE DOWN

The preliminary estimate of the 1951 Canadian potato acreage shows a reduction of 21 percent from the 1950 harvested figure. The total acreage this year is indicated at 400,900 acres compared with 505,200 acres in 1950. Plantings are down 25 percent in the Maritime Provinces (30 percent on Prince Edward Island), 21 percent in central Canada and 15 percent in the western provinces.

Although no indication of the yield prospect is yet available, the early crop has yielded well and good growth has been reported for the late varieties. On the basis of last year's unusually high average and the reduced acreage this year, the total crop would not exceed 76 million bushels compared with 99 million bushels in 1950. It would be about equal to domestic requirements for food, processing and seed after allowances for normal shrinkage and wastage and for normal exports of certified seed.

TOBACCO

INDONESIA TOBACCO IMPORTS INCREASE; EXPORTS DECLINE

Indonesia's imports of tobacco and tobacco products during January-March 1951 were more than twice as large as in the same 1950 period, according to Willard Brown, Agricultural Attaché, American Embassy, Djakarta. Exports of leaf during January-April 1951 were 7 percent below the comparable 1950 period.

Imports of leaf and manufactured tobacco during January-March 1951 totaled nearly 3.7 million pounds compared with 1.7 million pounds in the same 1950 period. Leaf imports accounted for 3.4 million pounds, or 92 percent of all tobacco imports during the first 3 months of 1951. In addition to leaf, Indonesia imported 145,504 pounds of cut tobacco, 94,798 pounds of cigarettes, and 19,841 pounds of cigars. The United States supplied about 60 percent of the leaf and India supplied the remaining 40 percent. The United Kingdom supplied about 45 percent of the cigarettes, while the United States supplied 30 percent and the Netherlands, the other 25 percent. The Netherlands supplied all the cigars and cut tobacco during January-March 1951.

Exports of leaf during January-April 1951 were 12.1 million pounds compared with 13.0 million pounds in the same 1950 period. Of the total Indonesian tobacco exported during the first 4 months of 1951, Krossol-type leaf accounted for 11.1 million pounds, or 92 percent; Vorstenland accounted for 310,849 pounds; Deli leaf, 238,097 pounds; and Java Estate and other leaf, 383,600 pounds. In addition to leaf, Indonesia exported 66,138 pounds of cut tobacco during January-April 1951. The Netherlands took practically all leaf exports.

**CUBAN TOBACCO PRODUCTION REVISED
UPWARD; EXPORTS HIGHER**

Cuba's 1950-51 tobacco production is now placed unofficially at about 7 percent above earlier preliminary estimates, but still 18 percent below the postwar record harvest established last season, according to L.L. Martinez, American Embassy, Havana. Exports of unmanufactured tobacco during January-June 1951 were 70 percent above the corresponding 1950 period.

Cuba's 1950-51 leaf harvest is now unofficially estimated between 76 and 77 million pounds compared with an earlier estimate of 72 million pounds. The 1949-50 leaf harvest is estimated at the postwar record level of 93.6 million pounds. The present 1950-51 production estimate is about 19 percent above the 64.3 million pounds set by the Cuban Government for production in 1950-51 and ensuing crop years.

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco during the first half of 1951 totaled 23.9 million pounds compared with 15.1 million pounds during the same 1950 period. The United States, the most important export outlet for Cuban unmanufactured tobacco, took about 60 percent of the total during January-June 1951 and Spain, the second most important outlet, 20 percent. Other countries which took unmanufactured tobacco from Cuba during the first half of 1951 included Canada, the United Kingdom, Western Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, Norway, Belgium and Australia. In addition to unmanufactured tobacco, Cuba exported 17.1 million cigars, 9.9 million cigarettes, and 1,735 pounds of smoking tobacco.

FATS AND OILS**CUBAN LARD AND TALLOW
SITUATION, SECOND QUARTER 1951**

Cuban consumption of lard and rendered pork fat during the second quarter of 1951 averaged about 11 million pounds monthly, or about the same as during the first quarter, according to J.R. Johnstone, American Embassy, Havana. Nearly all of this lard and pork fat was imported from the United States, inasmuch as domestic lard rendering is commercially unimportant in Cuba.

Imports of lard and rendered pork fat were down sharply during the quarter, totaling only about 27 million pounds, as compared with almost 50 million pounds during the January-March period. The much smaller imports during April-June were due to excessive April 1 stocks and to declining Chicago quotations which discouraged local buying. Approximately 90 percent of the second quarter arrivals were in tank cars, the remainder mostly in 37-pound tins.

CUBA: Imports of lard, and rendered pork fat,
by quarters, January-June 1951 with comparisons

Quarter	1949	1950	1951
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
First.....	39,866	36,244	49,804
Second.....	21,782	33,759	26,792
Third.....	25,761	45,311	-
Fourth.....	35,752	24,554	-
Total.....	125,161	139,868	-

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary.

American Embassy, Havana

In general, Cuban wholesale lard prices during second quarter 1951 followed closely the Chicago quotations, although there was less day-to-day fluctuation. Prime steam lard wholesaled locally at about 26 cents per pound during April. May prices averaged about 25 cents, and in June the price dropped to approximately 24 cents per pound. Sporadic buyers of packaged lard suffered from this price decline since some of them had built up large stocks earlier in the year. Buying is now limited mainly to purchases by a few large buyers in tank car lots.

Cuban stocks of lard and rendered pork fat on July 1, 1951, despite the comparatively modest arrivals during the second quarter, probably totaled at least 18 million pounds.

Maximum consumption during the third quarter should not exceed the second quarter rate of 11 million pounds monthly, and because of the warmer weather may be somewhat less. If allowance is made for about one month's supply of lard on September 1, Cuba's third-quarter requirements will approximate 25 million pounds. It is probable that actual imports will reach at least this quantity, and if marketing conditions are favorable, may be considerably more.

Inedible tallow and grease production in Cuba during the second quarter of 1951 reflected the effects of the dry season upon cattle marketings. Estimated output during the quarter approximated 3.2 million pounds or about the same as during the previous 3-month period.

Cuban imports of inedible tallow and grease during April-June 1951 totaled 14.6 million pounds, as compared with 8.8 million pounds in the first quarter. The much larger second quarter imports were chiefly the result of 2 factors; (1) local tallow production during April-June was down, necessitating greater dependence upon imports, and (2) some of the arrivals during this quarter were in tankers, which created larger than normal inventories.

CUBA: Imports of inedible tallow and grease, by (quarters,) January-June 1951 with comparisons

Quarter	1949	1950	1951
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
First.....	6.6	8.0	8.8
Second.....	8.1	5.6	14.6
Third.....	6.9	9.7	-
Fourth.....	8.1	8.7	-
Total.....	29.7	32.0	-

1/ Revised.

American Embassy, Havana.

During April and May 1951 top grade imported soap tallow from the United States cost approximately \$18.50 per 100 pounds laid down at Cuban soap factories. Early in June the United States price began to decline sharply, and by July 1 soap factories were paying only about \$11.00 to \$12.00 per hundred pounds. Local commitments kept the price of domestic tallow up throughout most of the quarter at about \$19.00 per 100 pounds.

Inedible tallow and grease are used almost exclusively by local soap factories. Although short term consumption estimates are difficult to determine, indications are that consumption during the second quarter of 1951 was about the same as during the first quarter, or approximately 10.5 million pounds.

Because current inventories of inedible tallow are reportedly large and domestic production is expected to increase, it is probable that Cuban tallow import requirements during the third quarter of 1951 will not exceed 7.0 million pounds.

MALAYAN EXPORTS OF COPRA AND COCONUT OIL DROP IN 1951

The Federation of Malaya exported 25,801 long tons of copra and 11,419 tons of coconut oil during January-March 1951, according to the American Embassy Singapore. Imports during this period amounted to 25,763 tons of copra and 68 tons of coconut oil. Net exports of 18,055 tons, copra equivalent, represented a drop of nearly one-fourth from the net exports of 23,869 tons in the first quarter of 1950, and 27 percent below the last quarter.

Buyers of copra during the first quarter of 1951 included Denmark, Austria, Western Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom purchasing the following quantities, respectively: 7,230 tons; 4,900; 3,955; 2,750; and 3,785 tons. Coconut oil was shipped to Western Germany--4,403 tons; the Netherlands--1,584; India--1,159; Italy--883; and Burma--797 tons.

Copra production in the first 3 months of 1951 amounted to 31,800 tons and quarter-end stocks totaled 1,594 tons. Approximately 19,900 tons of coconut oil were expressed. Stocks of oil on March 31 were 3,487 tons.

Copra wholesale prices rose from a level of M\$47 per picul of 133 1/3 pounds (U.S. \$261 per long ton) at the beginning of the year to a peak of M\$62.50 (\$347.50) on March 5. The market began to weaken thereafter with prices declining to a level of M\$52.50 (\$292) by the end of March.

Following the upward trend of copra prices, coconut oil prices increased from M\$79 per picul (\$439 per long ton) to a high of M\$108 (\$600) on March 5, and then dropped to M\$94 (\$523) by March 31.

MALAYAN PALM OIL EXPORTS INCREASE, FIRST QUARTER 1951

Exports of palm oil and palm kernels from the Federation of Malaya during January-March 1951, totaled 16,124 and 3,128 short tons, respectively, according to the American Embassy, Singapore. Palm oil shipments, of which 95 percent was sent to the United Kingdom, increased nearly 20 percent from the volume of the corresponding period of 1950. Palm kernels, up 22 percent, were taken by Sweden-1,529 tons; Denmark-1,442, and other Europe-157 tons.

During the first quarter of 1951, estates in the Federation produced 12,766 tons of palm oil. There were 5,110 tons of oil stocks at the end of March. Wholesale prices, as quoted by the Singapore Chamber of Commerce, increased steadily from M\$1,000 per long ton (U.S. \$296 per short ton) on January 2 to M\$1,400 (\$413) on April 2.

Palm kernel production was reported at 3,746 tons and quarter-end stocks at 1,678 tons. During this period an average price of M\$797 per long ton (\$236 per short ton) c.i.f. Europe was obtained.

CHILE PLACES FATS AND OILS UNDER PRICE CONTROL

The Government of Chile has considered it necessary to add certain fats and oils, among other articles, to its previous list of products for which prices are controlled, according to the American Embassy, Santiago. The original resolution (No. 10), became effective on February 7, 1951, and was established in view of the rapid increase in prices.

Fats and oils items now subject to price control are: edible oils from oleaginous seeds, olive oil, castor oil, neat'sfoot oil, aniline oil, sperm oil, sunflower seed, lard, tallow, stearin, stearic acid, and household soaps.

**INDIA'S FLAXSEED OUTPUT DOWN; RAPE
AND MUSTARD SEED UP IN 1950-51**

India's 1950-51 flaxseed production is estimated at 15,400,000 bushels from 3,503,000 acres, or a decrease of 6.3 percent from the revised 1949-50 estimated output of 16,440,000 bushels from 3,759,000 acres, according to final official estimates reported by the American Embassy, New Delhi. The decrease in flaxseed acreage and production occurred mainly in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh as a result of unfavorable weather.

Rape and mustard seed output for the year was officially estimated at 925,120 short tons from 5,505,000 acres. This is an increase of 4.2 percent from the 1949-50 production of 888,160 tons from 4,781,000 acres. The greater part of the acreage increase occurred in the state of Uttar Pradesh where high prices of rape and mustard seed oil at sowing time induced the farmers to increase their plantings. Production in this state, however, was not proportionate to the large increase in acreage due to unfavorable weather. Punjab, Pepsu and Rajasthan also accounted for some increase in acreage and production. In Madhya Pradesh, adverse weather conditions at planting time as well as at subsequent growing stages caused both acreage and production of rape and mustard seed to decrease from the 1949-50 season.

**ITALY EXTENDS TARIFF
MODIFYING FATS AND OILS**

The Italian provisional tariff, which includes temporary duty exemptions for certain fats and oils, has been prolonged by Presidential Decree No. 516 issued on June 30, 1951, according to the American Embassy, Rome. The decree became effective on July 12, 1951, 2 days prior to the expiration of the original decree, and will remain valid through December 31, 1951. Temporary tariff rates already in effect will be continued (see Foreign Crops and Markets, March 5, 1951, page 257).

Duty exemptions were granted to mustard seed, poppy seed, squash seed, and "unnamed seeds" in addition to those previously reported.

Oil pressed from mustard, poppy, cardamom, tobacco, squash, grape, and tea seeds are subject to an import duty of 10 percent ad valorem under the new decree. Duty modifications on other vegetable oils and lard remain unchanged.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTSNEW BEEF PRICES ESTABLISHED AS BASIS FOR
CALCULATING ARGENTINE CATTLE VALUES

The Argentine government in mid-July 1951, established new prices for dressed beef to serve as a basis for calculating the value to producers of cattle consigned direct to packing plants, according to C.A. Boonstra, Agricultural Attaché, American Embassy, Buenos Aires. The new average is approximately 50 percent more than the previous official basis, but somewhat less than the equivalent prices paid in central markets during recent months.

The basic prices established by the Argentine Government refer to dressed beef sides, classified according to the local grading system. The basic weight for sides within each grade is 130 kilos (287 pounds), with discounts applicable for excess weights. This continues the policy introduced in August 1950 encouraging the production of medium-weight steers preferred in all markets except the United Kingdom, which traditionally demands the heavier types.

Assuming usual dressing percentages, the cattle grower is guaranteed under the new provisions a price for beef which will range from approximately 1.12 pesos per kilo (10.2 U.S. cents per pound) liveweight for canner steers and up to 1.38 pesos (12.5 cents per pound) for top grade steers. The weighted average for all cattle sent to central markets is expected to work out approximately 1.20 pesos per kilo (10.9 cents per pound). This compares with an average of 0.80 pesos (7.3 cents per pound) under the previous regulation, a guarantee which in the past year has been far under the actual price. In recent months, the average has been 1.25 pesos (11.3 cents per pound) or more, exceeding even the present guarantee. Payments to packers for export beef, and ceiling prices to consumers for domestic sales are fixed on the basis of the beef prices contained in this decree.

The new ceiling prices to consumers for domestic sales announced in early July (see Foreign Crops and Markets, Vol. 63, No. 5, July 30) were considerably higher than former prices and were designed to curtail domestic consumption. With the contemplated reduction in domestic consumption, cattle prices are expected to average lower and more in line with the new basic prices.

LIVESTOCK NUMBERS INCREASE
IN PANAMA

Cattle, hog and poultry numbers have substantially increased in Panama, according to the agricultural section of the 1950 Panamanian census. Preliminary data place cattle numbers at 573,136 head, hogs at 196,350 head and poultry at 1,865,558 head. These figures compare with 334,000 head of cattle, 138,000 hogs and 1,084,000 poultry as reported in June of 1942. The 1950 figures show seven-tenths of a cow, bull or steer to each inhabitant in the Republic of Panama.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERCOTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS
ON WORLD MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on world markets converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, U.S. gulf-port average, and taxes incident to exports

Market location, kind, and quality	Date	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound	
					Export Spot quo- tation	and inter- mediate taxes
Alexandria		Kantar				
Ashmouni, Good.....	8-9	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	1/ 125.00	72.41	2.95
Ashmouni, FGF.....	"	"	"	1/ (not quoted)		
Karnak, Good.....	"	"	"	1/ 175.80	101.83	2.95
Karnak, FGF.....	"	"	"	1/ (not quoted)		
Bombay		Candy				
Jarila, Fine.....	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	2/ 770.00	20.50	21.30
Broach Vijay, Fine.....	"	"	"	2/ 840.00	22.36	21.30
Karachi		Maund				
4F Punjab, SG, Fine....	8-8	82.28 lbs.	"	99.00	36.30	23.09
289F Sind, SG, Fine....	"	"	"	108.00	39.60	23.09
289F Punjab, SG, Fine...	"	"	"	110.00	40.33	23.09
Buenos Aires		Metric ton				
Type B.....	8-9	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	3/8000.00	72.58	6.77
Lima		Sp. quintal				
Tanguis, Type 3-1/2....	8-7	101.4 lbs.	Sol	472.00	31.13	8.35
Tanguis, Type 5.....	"	"	"	450.00	29.68	6.87
Pima, Type 1.....	"	"	"	640.00	42.21	18.32
Recife		Arroba				
Mata, Type 4.....		33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro			
Sertao, Type 5.....		"	"			
Sertao, Type 4.....		"	"			
Sao Paulo						
Sao Paulo, Type 5.....	8-9	"	"	260.00	42.78 3.0% ad	
Torreon		Sp. quintal				valoren
Middling, 15/16".....	"	101.4 lbs.	Peso	240.00	27.38	5.99
Houston-Galveston-New						
Orleans av. Mid, 15/16"	"	Pound	Cent	XXXXX	34.78	---

Quotations of foreign markets and taxes reported by cable from U.S. Foreign Service posts abroad. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Prices omitted from last week's table: Alexandria, August 2, 1951, in tallaris per kantar with U.S. cents per pound in parentheses, Ashmouni, Good, 124.00 (71.83); Ashmouni, FGF, 92.00 (53.29); Karnak, Good, 174.65 (101.17); Karnak, FGF, 139.65 (80.89); tax 2.95 U.S. cents.

2/ Ceiling price.

3/ Nominal.

EGYPT'S COTTON PRICE SUPPORTS CHANGED

The Egyptian Government announced on August 2 that minimum prices offered by the Government since April 9 will be maintained for old and new-crop cotton of long and medium-long staple varieties (mainly Ashmouni, Zagora, and Giza 30) but would apply only to old-crop cotton of the extra long staples (Karnak, and Menoufi). Prices of new-crop extra long staples will not be supported by the Government but fluctuations in market quotations in any one day are limited to 1 percent of the closing price of the preceding day.

The amount of cotton purchased by the Government under the price support program between April 9 and about the end of June (according to the Egyptian press) was around 200,000 bales (equivalent 500 pounds gross) including about 35,000 of Karnak and 6,000 or 7,000 of Menoufi. The remainder was comprised largely of Ashmouni.

Quotations at Alexandria during the past crop year reached a peak about March 8, 1951, 1/ equivalent to U.S. 108.4 cents a pound for Good Karnak plus an export tax equivalent to 11.83 cents. The peak price for Good Ashmouni was about 85.85 cents (plus tax) reached on February 22. In an effort to halt a sharp price decline that started early in March, the Government announced a schedule of minimum prices on March 21 and on April 9 announced its offer to purchase cotton at these minimum prices. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, June 18, 1951). Purchases prior to May 28 when the export tax was reduced by 75 percent to U.S. 2.96 cents a pound amounted to 8,400 bales. The tax reduction did not have the desired effect of stimulating export demand sufficiently to absorb a large portion of these stocks. Additional purchases in June totaled 152,000 bales and on July 1 about 32,000 bales were bought.

At the end of June, stocks of all cotton in Egypt were estimated at about 460,000 bales, comprised largely of low-grade Ashmouni and Zagora varieties. Private sources expect Government-owned stocks to reach at least 250,000 bales (500-pound equivalent) by the end of Egypt's crop year August 31. The Government is said to be attempting to discourage offers of cotton to Government buyers through rigid classifications and low premiums which appear to be an effective check on these offers.

No trade in new-crop futures was done during June. Except for small sales of old-crop Ashmouni (Fully Good Fair to Good) to India and Hong Kong there has been a complete lack of interest on the part of foreign buyers in June. Sales to local mills also were small. Practically all sales in June were made at minimum price levels.

The condition of the current cotton crop is reported to be about normal following a period of abnormally cool weather during the first half of June and limited leafworm damage. The supply of water for irrigation is below normal but has had no significant effect on the outlook for yields. The first official cotton report for 1951-52 released on July 4 placed the area planted at 2,054,000 acres.

1/ Quotations available for only 1 day each week.

UPWARD TREND IN BELGIAN
COTTON IMPORTS

Belgian imports of cotton during the 10-month period, August-May 1950-51, totaled 436,000 bales (500 pounds gross weight), compared with 399,000 bales in the same period of 1949-50, according to Robert N. Anderson, Agricultural Attaché, American Embassy, Brussels.

Although the United States maintained its position as the largest supplier of cotton to Belgium, accounting for 35 percent of total imports in the first 10 months of 1950-51, this was a sharp decline from the 54 percent supplied by the United States in the corresponding period of the previous season. Increased imports from other countries, the Belgian Congo and Mexico in particular, more than compensated for the decline in cotton obtained from the United States.

BELGIUM: Imports of raw cotton from major countries of origin;
average 1934-38; annual 1947-48; 1948-49, 1949-50;
August-May 1949-50 and 1950-51

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country	Year beginning August 1				August-May	
	Average	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1949-50	1950-51
	1934-38					
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales
United States:	145	92	152	245	215	152
Belgian Congo.....	120	99	91	86	79	114
Brazil.....	26	61	9	1	1/	1
Egypt.....	17	16	12	13	12	23
India.....	154	107	27	12	12	3
Peru.....	8	23	18	25	20	23
Turkey.....	2/	2/	10	12	10	6
Mexico.....	2/	2/	6	44	38	65
Others.....	36	24	17	17	13	49
Total.....	506	422	342	455	399	436

1/ Less than 500 bales. 2/ If any, included in Other countries.

From the 3.5 million bales allocated thus far for export from the United States in 1951-52, Belgium has been allotted 120,000 bales, with an undetermined amount still to be allocated later in the season. This compares with the 90,000 bales allocated to Belgium during 1950-51.

Consumption of raw cotton in Belgian textile mills during the 9-months August-April 1950-51 totaled 405,000 bales, 19 percent above the 339,000 bales consumed during the corresponding period of the 1949-50 season. Consumption during the entire 1949-50 season amounted to only 423,000 bales.

